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99TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 244

To express the sense of Congress regarding East Timor.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 1985

Mr. HALL of Ohio submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of Congress regarding East Timor.

Whereas an estimated 100,000 East Timorese out of a population of less than 700,000 have died since the invasion and occupation of East Timor by the Government of Indonesia, which began on December 7, 1975;

Whereas armed conflict persists in East Timor;

Whereas threats of food shortages and medical problems persist in some areas of East Timor;

Whereas international access to and the free flow of information from East Timor remain restricted;

Whereas the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor is denied full freedom of expression and is subject to intimidation by Indonesian authorities;

Whereas Indonesian authorities have instituted a birth control program in East Timor without the full knowledge and consent of the people of the territory and despite large-scale loss of life there since 1975;

Whereas Indonesian authorities have placed many East Timorese in resettlement areas against their wishes where many of them are prevented from raising crops;

Whereas Amnesty International issued a report in June 1985 which called attention to systematic violations of human rights in East Timor;

Whereas in a statement made in July 1984 Pope John Paul II expressed concern over the human rights situation in East Timor and the need for international relief agencies to operate freely in the territory, and expressed the hope that particular consideration would be given to the ethnic, religious, and cultural identity of the people of East Timor;

Whereas in August 1985 the United States Catholic Conference called attention to a letter sent in June 1985 by Cardinal John O'Connor of New York to Msgr. Carlos Ximenes Belo, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor, which expressed support for the struggle to preserve and enhance the dignity of life of the East Timorese people and for their right to live in peace and freedom; and

Whereas 157 East Timorese political prisoners were tried in Indonesian tribunals between December 1983 and June 1985 without the presence of qualified international observers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the President should take all appropriate measures to encourage the government of Indonesia to—

(1) maintain and expand access to and guarantee freedom of movement in East Timor for humanitarian organizations so that such organizations can carry out their humanitarian operations to the fullest extent feasible;

(2) allow unhindered access to East Timor for journalists, church delegations, and human rights groups that seek to visit the territory;

(3) guarantee full freedom of expression for and end intimidation of the Roman Catholic Church in East Timor;

(4) allow an impartial international examination of population limitation measures instituted in East Timor and end all such measures that do not have the full consent and knowledge of those directly concerned;

(5) allow qualified international observers to be present at trial proceedings that involve East Timorese political prisoners;

(6) allow an impartial international investigation of the conditions that exist in areas of East Timor where East Timorese have been resettled by Indonesian authorities; and

(7) work with the Governments of Portugal and the United States to develop initiatives that address the sources of conflict in East Timor and that bring an authentic peace to East Timor.